AMONG THE ALPS.

A TRIP THROUGH THE SIMPLON PASS IN JUNE.

Avalanches and Whirlwinds of Snow The Charms of the Cascades and rfalls-ilon Cascades are Manu-

We found the remains of a great snow wift near the summit of the Simplen ress: The crest of the herp rose above the top of our carriage. This was a surprise, but not disagreeable. On the Italian, or south side of the Alps the weather had been quite warm and even enervating. Although the sky was overcast and rain fell at intervals I became unpleasantly heated whenever I walked to case the horses and pick flowers. But the moment we began to descend from the extreme height of over 6,500 feet a cold wind struck us in front and flank. Rags and shawls which had been carefully strapped up were unbound and put to use. The road was as good as when Napoleon made it, and the horses were fresh from a night's rest at the half-way into of Isella. The carriage rattled CAPITAL, PAID UP, down the steep grade, the driver cracking his whip merrily and making echoes in the deep SURPLUS, and narrow gorges. We knew that a few hours of this pace would bring us to Brieg and warmth. I never before realized the full difference between a northern and a southern aspect. As we made the gradual ascent from Domo d'Ossola snow had been eccasionally seen, but always far above us. It filled crevices at the height of 7,000 feet or crowned the very peaks. DANGERS FROM AVALANCHES.

But when we passed the little village of Simplen and neared the Hospics there was smow in patches far below us. And from the road upward it still covered large tracts, and at times threatened avalanches. These, how-ever, are of rare occurrence on the Simplon in the first week of June. Rude crosses mark the spots where travelers had been swept into the profound gulf which yawned on our left At one place, the driver said, four men had been carried to that awful but instant death. An enduring cracifix of bronze had been firmly set in a stone socket, just where they were overtaken. This is the part of the road where so many "refuges" have been provided. Those places of shelter, as well as the more comfortable Hospice, have saved the lives of many persons croming the pass in the fall, winter and spring. The tour-mente, or whirlwind of anow, is a cause of more deaths than avalanches in the high Alps. They are bitterly cold and blinding, and in a few minutes raise mounds of snow through which horses and men can hardly make their way. We were glad to know that these icy plegues were out of season at

sun was melting the thow in all but its highest lodgments. The white peaks of mountains, ranging from 9,000 to 11,000 feet above the sea, were sublime and beautiful. One never tires of gazing at them, and using some more familiar mountain at home as a sort of suring scale in order to form a better idea of their height. Americans are in the habit of recalling their impressions of Washington, Mansfield, Greylock or the Catskills for this purpose. In the Alps, however, this plan does not help us much, for some of the most majestic of the range have their bases at a height of 5,000 feet to begin with, and never seem to be as high by several thousand feet as they really are. A mountain of much less stature would look just as towering springing from a foundation nearer the sea level.

BEAUTIES OF THE WATERFALLS. But when no grand mountains are in sight then one's spirit is refreshed by the waterfalls. I never before conceived the widely different forms which falling water could assume. We passed hundreds of enwades between Domo d'Ossolo and Brieg, and no two were alike. abled each other as little in shape ns in size. Some were simple mill streams. They came rushing down the mountains in at volume to turn the wheels. But they great volume to turn the wheels. But they found no corn to grind or legs to mw. They were only conducted off through culverts be-neath the roadled, where they could do neither harm nor good. What might be called lace patterns were innumerable. They were flat waterfalls, thin and very wide, slipping gently over smooth rocks of easy slopes. Wavy bands of lines made the breaith of these falls look in the distance exactly like mow-white lace. Bridal veils of the most exquisite texture were common. Some kept their symmetry in leaps of at least 500 feet.

There were falls which reminded one of the dropping of brilliants from fireworks high in the nir. Each flashing wavelet seemed to preserve its unity as it fell over the precipice, and to come down slowly till broken up by Paid-up Capital,

broke into a powerful vapor an 1 sparkled in the saushine like a enscade of diamonds. This is the sort of fall that Swiss innkeepers are said to manufacture in the dry season It only needs a small boy with a few pails of water. He is out of sight on the heights and turns on the fall when he sees a carriage coming through the pass. There were too many falls of this kind to make us question NATIONAL BANK OF THE REPUBLIC, New York. their genuinenes. Another style that never tired came down in numerous short leaps. The effect was that of stars made of silver. Sometimes they were solid-as one might eay-and made so little spray that they seemed to be shining steps leading from the gloomy depths of the ravine to the white and ene land above Switzerland Cor. Jour-

A Ghastly Joke in Pantomime.

One one occasion a wag played a too successful trick on Rich (the founder of English pantomime) and his demons. In one of his twelve performers, got up in a style outher-oding Milton. They were dressed in black and red of the most lurid burs. Their eyes were of fire and snaky locks fell over their shoulders. An actor wishing to frighten them got a spare dress, and making himself a few degrees more demoniac-looking than the regular demons, he one night shipped in among them. They soon perceived that there was a devil too many, and there could only be one thought as to where he had come

from.

The mock demons rushed from the stage, and some of them did not want to throw off their dresses, but fled through the streets homeward, spreading the alarm that some-thing terrible had happened. The panic spread to the audience, which dispersed in wild confusion, and the event was soon ormmented with all the imaginative details that fear, and, in some cases, mischief, could suggost. The demon's appearance was painted in the most appalling colors, and many were prepared to take outh that they had seen him by through the roof. Thousands of people prounded the theatre next day, and wags nted out to them the bit of the wall that the devil had knocked down with a swish of his tail, and which had been repaired during the night. The manager published explana-tion after explanation of the practical joke, but the most of the people adhered to their version of it.-Times.

Honorary Degree for an Actor.

The strong "church" influence brought to bear on the council alone prevented the University of Oxford from conferring its honorary degree on Mr. Irving. The discussions the subject were of an unusually lively couption, as Mr. Irving's friends made a

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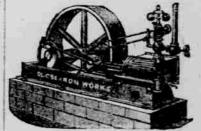


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